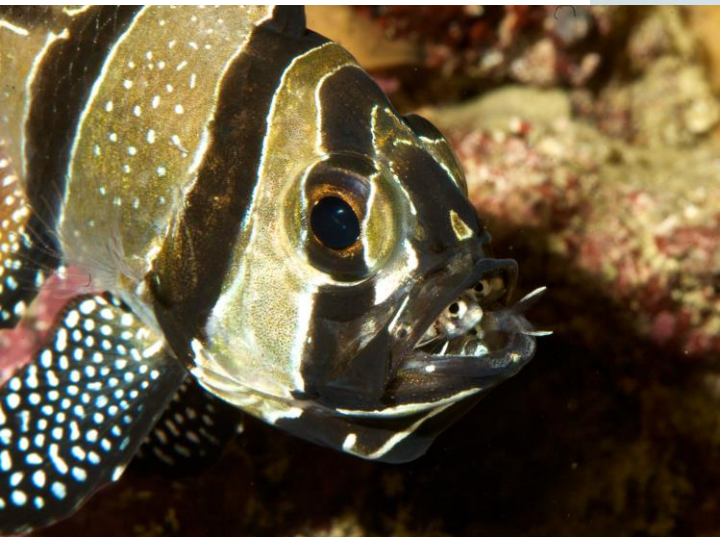


Question #1—Which Species Should Have A Recovery Plan?



NOAA
FISHERIES



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Statute & Guidance

- ESA section 2(b) purposes are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which listed species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of such species
- ESA section 4(f)(1) requires the Secretary to develop & implement recovery plans **unless** he finds such plan would not promote the conservation of the species
- Interim Recovery Planning Guidance on a finding to not develop & implement a recovery plan:
 - Delisting is anticipated in the near future because (1) extinction or (2) listing error, possibly due to new taxonomic or status information.
 - The species' current and historic ranges occur entirely under the jurisdiction of other countries, i.e., it is a foreign species**.
 - Other circumstances that are not easily foreseen, but in which the species would not benefit from a recovery plan.
- **ESA section 8(b) requires, in part, the Secretary to encourage:
 - foreign countries to provide for the conservation of listed species
 - entering into international agreements to provide for such conservation



Species Without Recovery Plans

- NMFS has determined or is evaluating plans would not promote conservation for **52** species:
 - **49** Foreign Species (foreign waters and/or high seas)
 - **1** Historical range within U.S.—Largetooth sawfish
 - **2** Transnational (U.S. territorial waters and high seas)—Bowhead Whale & Guadalupe Fur Seal



Species Without Recovery Plans

49 Foreign Species *Rationale for Finding*

- Example, Indo-Pacific Corals (3 species: *Pavano diffluens*, *Acropora rudis*, *Acropora pharaonis*):
 - Entirely within foreign waters where U.S. lacks authority.
 - Recovery plan is being developed for 12 other Pacific corals, which will contain international efforts to promote conservation & monitoring that will have ancillary benefits for these 3 species
 - International instruments exists (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and Their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia) that contain habitat protection objectives including coral reefs
 - NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program grants in the Indian Ocean may benefit these 3 species.



Species Without Recovery Plans

- 1 Historical Range Largemouth Sawfish *Rationale for Finding*
 - Historically occurred in Caribbean & Gulf of Mexico, mainly along Texas coast & east to Florida and current U.S. actions protect sawfish:
 - Smallmouth sawfish recovery actions to minimize effects of incidental capture may benefit largemouth
 - Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas prohibit take of sawfish
 - Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES) limiting international trade to exceptional non-commercial circumstances only



Species Without Recovery Plans

2 Transnational *Rationale for Finding*

- Bowhead Whale
 - International Whaling Commission manages whaling & scientific research
 - Cooperative agreement with Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
 - Protect bowhead whales & Eskimo culture
 - Promote science
 - Effectuate aboriginal subsistence whaling in accordance with laws
 - Appendix I CITES
- Guadalupe Fur Seal
 - Current remnant population San Miguel Island, California
 - Threats under U.S. jurisdiction minimal (e.g., no documented incidental capture in gillnets; no harvests; restricted entry to haulout areas)
 - Appendix I CITES
 - Identified specific recovery criteria and initiate a status review in the 1984 final listing rule
 - NMFS Initiated status review in 2014
 - IUCN downlisted to 'Least Concern' in 2015



Question 1—Which Species Should Have a Recovery Plan?

Strengths:

- NMFS has applied the intent of the ESA to focus on species where a recovery plan would promote their conservation.
- Guidance allows sufficient flexibility to consider suite of factors in what would promote conservation.

Question 1—Which Species Should Have a Recovery Plan?

Challenges: Remaining diligent to conserve foreign species

